




MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

DATE: July 31, 2006

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI: Consideration of a resolution confirming submission to the California Coastal Commission of draft Malibu Public Parks Enhancement Plan - Public Works Plan as amended.**

Legislative Authority: Section 30605 of the Coastal Act provides that as an alternative to project-by-project review, plans for public works may be submitted to the Coastal Commission for review in the same manner prescribed for review of local coastal programs. Section 30114 of the Coastal Act defines "public works" as including "all publicly financed recreational facilities, all projects of the State Coastal Conservancy, and any development by a special district." Section 13353.5 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations further provides, in part, as follows:

"Prior to the filing of a public works plan, the submitting agency or local government shall hold a public hearing at the local level on the proposed public works plan."

Background: The Malibu Public Parks Enhancement Plan- Public Works Plan (PWP) has been prepared jointly with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and is available on the Internet at <http://mrca.ca.gov/pwp.html>. The PWP proposes to complete trail connections for the Coastal Slope Trail, linking Zuma/Trancas Canyons, Ramirez Canyon Park, Escondido Canyon Park, Solstice Canyon Park, and Corral Canyon Park. The Plan:

- 1) provides policies, development standards and implementation actions to complete trail connections;
- 2) identifies public access, recreational facility, and program improvements for the Escondido Canyon Park, Corral Canyon Park and Ramirez Canyon Park; and
- 3) addresses long term programmatic adaptation, improvement and maintenance needs to ensure continued access and recreation opportunities for visitors with diverse backgrounds, interests, ages and abilities.

The MRCA holds many of the offers to dedicate (OTD's) which are integral to the PWP and also owns a portion of Escondido Canyon Park. In addition, the MRCA will aid in implementing many of the programs and public access components of the PWP. The MRCA held a public hearing on February 17, 2006 to consider the planning grant to fund the PWP. The Governing Board of the MRCA adopted a resolution authorizing an application for project planning and design for Escondido, Ramirez and Ramirez Creek studies. The project, as a result of the planning, was further defined to include Corral Canyon and connection to National Park Service Properties. The MRCA held further local public hearings on June 7, 2006 and June 26, 2006 on the Public Works Plan (PWP.) The PWP was submitted to the California Coastal Commission on June 9, 2006.

The planning area defined in section 2.0 has been redefined. All portions of the PWP planning area are situated inland of Pacific Coast Highway.

The planning area encompasses public parkland as illustrated in Figure 2 of the PWP and extends from Zuma/Trancas Canyon Park at the westernmost portion of the Plan area to Corral Canyon Park at the easternmost portion of the Plan area, south to Pacific Coast Highway and north to Castro Crest in Upper Solstice Canyon. Private property addressed by the Plan consists only of those properties located in the planning area subject to OTDs or those identified on the Conservancy's Work Program, as may be amended, which are acquired from willing sellers, dedicated or donated. Inclusion of a privately owned parcel within the planning area does not mean that the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy has any land use regulatory or zoning control over that property. Land use regulation and zoning control over private property will remain unaffected by this plan. The planning area includes portions of Zuma/Trancas Canyon Park and other National Park Service land, Ramirez Canyon Park, Escondido Canyon Park, Solstice Canyon Park, and Corral Canyon Park. Zuma/Trancas and Solstice Canyon Parks (owned and maintained by the National Park Service), or portions thereof, are included in the Plan area to allow for comprehensive and strategic planning for developing trail connectors with the goal of establishing a network of parks, trails, and open space for public use. Therefore, priority trail linkages to trails already established or planned in Zuma/Trancas and Solstice Canyon Parks are addressed in the Plan; however, the Plan does not discuss in detail the existing conditions and facilities or future plans of the National Park Service for these parklands, but focuses on establishing trail and transit connections to Zuma/Trancas, Solstice Canyon Parks, and National Park Service land to the north, and the park-specific improvements proposed for Ramirez Canyon Park, Escondido Canyon Park, and Corral Canyon Park. The entire Planning Area is located in the Coastal Zone.

Staff recommends that the MRCA confirm submission to the Coastal Commission of the PWP, but amend the planning area defined in section 2.0 to reduce its scope specifically to accommodate the projects contemplated by the Plan and eliminate private property holdings not subject to offers to dedicate (OTD's) or not on the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's Workprogram. All portions of the PWP would be situated inland of Pacific Coast Highway.